

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Smart Growth in Indiana

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This research paper proposes land use and infrastructure funding and planning policies for the State of Indiana in order to grow smarter and reduce sprawl based on different growth management and Smart Growth policies used in other states. As Indiana grows by one million people by 2050, long term planning is necessary in order to determine the what, where, when, and how of new development. By basing an Indiana approach off of the State of Maryland's Smart Growth laws, policies can be enacted in order to incentivize developers to build and expand in places ready for expansion while preserving farmland and other sensitive areas through the establishment of easements that offer property tax caps. While Maryland's program has not lived up to its initial promises, the proposal contained in this paper heavily modifies the policies for funding through the requirement of different planning elements. By enacting the proposed policies, Indiana can increase its fiscal and environmental sustainability.